

Farm Labor

ALBERT R. JENNIN
LIBRARY

FEB 22 1966

Release
March 10, 1966
3:00 P.M. (E.S.T.)

Trend Toward Smaller Farm Work Force Continues in 1966

The number of persons working on the Nation's farms during the week of February 20-26 totaled 4,117,000. This is 5 percent lower than the corresponding period in February 1965 and continues the downward trend of recent years in the farm work force. The number of all farm workers, although a record low for the month, represents a seasonal increase of 8 percent over January 1966. Farm family workers totaled 3,324,000, 5 percent less than the same period a year ago. Hired workers totaled 793,000, 6 percent under last year's low February level. Compared with February survey week averages for the 5 years 1960-64, the current totals show a 19-percent decrease in family workers, a 21-percent decrease in hired workers, and a 19-percent decrease in all workers.

Annual average farm employment for 1965 was 5,610,000 workers. This represents a decline of 8 percent from 1964, the largest decline of record for any one year. It is 16 percent below the 5-year average. Comparisons of the 1965 annual averages with the 1960-64 five-year averages for family and hired workers indicate that in recent years hired workers have declined faster than family workers. These comparisons show that family workers are 15 percent lower than the 5-year average, and hired workers are down 18 percent.

Hours Worked by Farm Workers

Farm workers, both family and hired, on reporting farms averaged 34.9 hours of farm work during the February survey week. This compares with 35.0 hours for the same period in 1965 and represents a seasonal increase of 1.3 hours from a month earlier. All family workers averaged a work week of 34.8 hours, an increase of 2.1 hours over January 1966.

Hired farm workers averaged 33.2 hours, 0.8 hour under a month earlier. In the South Atlantic States, below-normal temperatures and rain or wet soils shortened the hired workers' work week by 4.6 hours. In the Mountain and Pacific States, where weather conditions were more favorable, the work week was lengthened by 5.0 and 3.0 hours, respectively. For all other regions changes from a month earlier were small.

Farm Employment in 1965 Reached Peak in June

Estimates of farm worker numbers by States for each month in 1965 are shown on pages 4, 5, and 6 of this report. For some States, these estimates contain revisions from estimates published earlier. However, the changes are generally minor. The June survey week showed the largest total employment--6,872,000 persons doing farm work, including 2,276,000 hired workers.

-----oOo-----

Farm employment and indexes, February 1966, with comparisons, United States

	: Annual : average : 1960-64 ^{1/}	: Annual : average : 1965 ^{1/}	: February : average ^{1/} : 1960-64 ^{1/}	: February : 21-27, : 1965	: February : 20-26, : 1966
FARM EMPLOYMENT :					
(Thousands) :					
Total	6,662	5,610	5,093	4,334	4,117
Family labor	4,862	4,128	4,092	3,492	3,324
Hired labor	1,800	1,482	1,001	842	793
INDEXES ^{2/} :					
(1910-14=100) :					
Total	49	41	50	42	40
Family labor	48	41	49	41	39
Hired labor	53	44	54	45	43
(1957-59=100) :					
Total	89	75	90	77	73
Family labor	88	75	90	76	73
Hired labor	92	76	93	79	74

^{1/} Employment during the last full calendar week ending at least one day before the end of the month.

^{2/} Monthly indexes are adjusted for seasonal variation.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

N.Y. STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
ALBERT R. MANN LIBRARY
ACQUISITIONS DIV.
1-16-58
ML-FL ITHACA, N.Y.

SPECIAL IN THIS ISSUE

Revised Farm Employment Estimates, 48 States,
1965, By Months and Annual Averages

	<u>Page</u>
Comments	1 - 2
Farm employment and indexes, United States	2
Workers on Farms, February 1966	3
Total Workers on Farms 1965, by months	4
Family Workers on Farms, 1965, by months	5
Hired Workers on Farms, 1965, by months	6
Weekly hours worked per worker on reporting farms February 20-26, 1966 by States and divisions	7
